

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

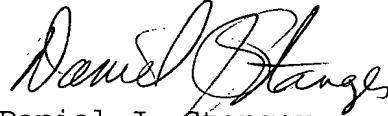
Claims 13-23 are pending.

The Examiner rejected Claims 13 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. The Applicants have amended Claims 13 and 23 to address the Examiner's concerns, without narrowing the scope of the claims.

Claims 13-14, and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Adams, U.S. 6,378,130 (Adams), and Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams. Without admitting to the propriety of these rejections, the Applicants submit herewith an accurate English-language translation of Japanese Priority Application 9-240852, to which the application claims foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119. The translation fully supports the rejected claims. Therefore, because the Applicants' perfected foreign priority date antedates the effective U.S. filing date of Adams (October 20, 1997), the Applicants' request withdrawal of the rejection as being based upon a disclosure that is not prior art to the claims.

Having addressed each aspect of the Office Action, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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